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FROM BURNSIDE'S ARMY.

[Telegraphed to the New York Papers.]

KNOXVILLE, TENN., November 17.—Gen. Longstreet, after crossing the Tennessee on Saturday morning, 14th instant, was attacked in the afternoon by General Burnside, who drove the advance guard back to within a mile of the river's edge by nightfall.

Longstreet crossed the remainder of his troops during the night, and on Sunday morning advanced in force.

General Burnside, finding it impossible to cope with him with the small force at his disposal, fell back to Lenoir, the rear guard skirmishing heavily.

Three desperate charges were made upon the Federal positions during Sunday night, but they were unsuccessful.

On Monday morning General Burnside evacuated Lenoir, but, owing to the energy with which the Confederate pursuit was kept up, determined to give them a check, and accordingly came into line of battle at Campbell's Station, when a fight ensued, lasting from late in the forenoon until dark. The first Federal position commanding the road from both sides, the infantry deployed in front of this, and were soon attacked by the Confederates, who made several gallant charges, and finally succeeded, by outflanking, in driving them to the cover of the batteries, which now opened a terrific and destructive fire. The Confederates retired before it, and fell back to the river.

It was now 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The Confederates showing a desire to renew the attack, and having brought three batteries to their assistance, General Burnside fell back to a more desirable position and again gave them battle. The contest continued, closing at nightfall, with the Federal troops in possession of their own ground.

The object of the fight having been attained, and as the detention of the Confederates had enabled the Federal trains to get all in advance, the Federal troops fell back during the night, and early Tuesday morning reached Knoxville, where a great battle is expected to be fought to-morrow.

Yesterday the Confederate advance guard attacked the Federal outposts upon the Loudon and Clinton roads, and heavy skirmishing continued all day.

This morning the attack was renewed when the fog which set in during the night had lifted. The Confederates, finding it impossible to drive the Federals with infantry, brought several guns into position, and poured in a flanking fire.

In the afternoon they brought forward a heavy force of infantry once more, and, after a brief skirmish, charged on the Federal position. A hand-to-hand conflict occurred, both sabres and revolvers being used on each side. The Federals at last were compelled to fall back about a third of a mile to a strong line, which they held to-night.

General Sanders and Captain Sikes, of the cavalry, who commanded the outposts were wounded. The General's condition is critical. Lieutenant Colonel Smith, of the 29th Michigan, was killed at Campbell's Station. The Federal loss in that fight was between two and three hundred. To-day it will not exceed one hundred and fifty.

LATEST.—PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 20.—From General Burnside's Louisville private dispatch, received by a gentleman in this city yesterday morning, dated Knoxville, November 19, and signed "A. E. Burnside, Major General," we extract the following:

"We are all right. The line is still interrupted between Knoxville and Cumberland Gap. Nothing was heard from the latter place last night, or up to 11 o'clock to-day. Headquarters here are not advised of any movement about Knoxville for several days past."

A dispatch just received from Parson Brownlow, dated Barbours Hill, November 19, says: "Fighting all about Knoxville."

SOUTHERN NEWS.

The Richmond Examiner of the 18th instant, received at Fortress Monroe, has a telegram from Charleston, dated the previous day, which states that two of the Monitors which had been engaged in the bombardment were not to be seen on that morning. It is stated that the leading Monitor in the attack on Fort Moultrie had her smoke stack and turret perforated. A report from Sumter states that four Monitors took position on Tuesday near Cummings' Point, and afterwards passed up the channel. It was believed that they carried heavy weights suspended at a proper depth below the water to ascertain if there was a passage for vessels of a certain draft. The bombardment of Sumter continued about as usual. There had been twenty-five shots fired on the city from Fort Gregg, but no material damage was sustained. It is reported that one of the Federal guns burst at the last fire.

Seven hundred Federal prisoners were despatched from Richmond to Danville on Tuesday, and one hundred and fifteen were received at the Libby Prison from Charleston on Monday night. Among the latter were the sailors and marines captured in the last night assault on the battered walls of Sumter.

The blockade-running steamers Dundee, Flora, Banshee, Syrian, Alice, Advance, Hansa, Beauregard, Antonio, Dispatch and Scotia, are all reported to have arrived safely at Wilmington, N. C. The great ram Missouri, built by the Confederates at Shreveport, is reported to be a failure. She is said to have cost the Government half a million of dollars.

The strike among the workmen at the Treasury building, in Washington, has ceased, the Secretary having rescinded the order that first made the difficulty.

The steamer Morning Star, at New York, brings advices from New Orleans to the 14th instant. The expedition of General Banks to Texas is claimed as a great success. He has captured, it is said, Brazos Island, Brownsville and Point Isabel, and these places are now occupied by his troops. The Confederates had retired to San Antonio. Slight skirmishing had taken place in Western Louisiana, but there had been no heavy fighting. The Federal forces were still in the vicinity of Vermilionville.

THE CASE OF W. T. SMITHSON.

The following order announces the decision and sentence in the case of W. T. Smithson:

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, Nov. 20, 1863.

William T. Smithson, convicted by the General Court-martial of "holding correspondence with the enemy, in violation of the 57th Article of War," and of "giving intelligence to the enemy," in violation of the same article, has been sentenced "To be confined in the Penitentiary at Albany, New York, or in such other place as the Secretary of War may direct, for the term of five years." The sentence has been approved by the President, and the Secretary of War has designated Albany, New York, as the place of confinement.

E. D. TOWNSEND,

Assistant Adjutant General.

Mr. Smithson was taken North yesterday. The charge on which he was sentenced was corresponding with the Confederates in 1861, for which he was once arrested and subsequently released. He came originally from Lynchburg and had been settled in Washington for many years, doing business as a banker. He was the leading layman of the Southern Methodist Church in this section of the country. In the walks of private life he was known as a modest, christian gentleman.

THE ELECTION IN MARYLAND.

By the following letter from the Hon. John W. Crisfield, published in the Somerset (Md.) Herald of the 17th instant, it will be seen that the interference of the military with the election in that Congressional district has been brought to the notice of President Lincoln, who promises to hold the offenders to a proper account:

PRINCESS ANNE, (MD.) Nov. 14, 1863.

The outrages perpetrated at the recent election demand investigation. The subject has been brought to the notice of the President of the United States, and he has responded in the following letter:

EXECUTIVE MANSION,

WASHINGTON, November 11, 1863.

Hon. M. BLAIR.

My Dear Sir: Mr. Crisfield's letter, which you enclose, is received. Let Mr. C. procure the sworn statements of the election judges, at any voting place, as to what may be deemed misconduct of any military officer, and present it to me, and I will call any such officer to account who shall by such statement appear to have violated or transcended his order.

A. LINCOLN.

I invite all persons having knowledge of the misconduct of any military officer at or in reference to the recent election to give information thereof by affidavit duly attested. The sworn statement of the election judges are preferred; but, when these cannot conveniently be had, the sworn statements of any credible person competent by the laws of this State to give evidence will be received and forwarded to the President.

J. W. CRISFIELD.

The Washington Chronicle in commenting on the news from East Tennessee says:—"A retrograde movement from that section of country, and the replacing of East Tennessee in rebel possession, would be one of the most severe Federal defeats of the war."